

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:  
RED AND BLACK IN MAX JAX WAX OF UF HACKS**

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**SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE  
SEPARATED@BIRTH?**



**BILLY  
DONOVAN**

**& EDDIE  
MUNSTER**

Will Muschamp came to Florida intending to do what Bret Bielema has done at Arkansas, except when Bret abandons the game plan: control the ball, pound it between the tackles, and beat down the opponent at the line of scrimmage. To run the show, he hired offensive genius Charlie Weiss, who brought from the NFL the Ron Erhardt-Ray Perkins smashmouth offensive system. Weiss, presumably with Muschamp's input, was the first to decide that Jeff Driskel is a better quarterback than Jacoby Brissett, a decision that has continued to haunt Florida throughout Muschamp's term, no matter who is calling the plays.

Weiss moved to the greener pastures of Kansas after one year in which Florida's offense ranked 102<sup>nd</sup> nationally with 334.17 yards per game, and following his appointment at Notre Dame from which he'd been fired, to be fired in Lawrence after another stumblebum effort at program leadership. To replace him, Muschamp brought in offensive genius Brent Pease, the guy who'd made Boise State's offense sizzle in toppling many a top program, including UGA and Oklahoma, with playcalling wizardry and trickery out the wazoo. Two seasons later—one good, one atrocious—Pease was fired.

In 2014, Muschamp hired Kurt Roper, the offensive genius who'd helped Dave Cutcliffe elevate Duke from ....Duke.... to ACC contender. Roper would install a spread, up-tempo game that would bring ACC-style excitement (ahem) to the SEC. Muschamp was stoked in the preseason about having the best offensive talent of his tenure, and such a dynamic coordinator, to lead Florida back to glory. But Jeff Driskel kept getting the snaps, and this year's Gators have been one of the worst offensive teams fielded in Gainesville in many years, their specialty being a turnover every quarter. Now Muschamp has decided that instead of changing coordinators, he's changing quarterbacks. Welcome to the "Freon" Treon Harris Era.

I'm still trying to figure out what happened to Elite Eleven [Yoga-Killer](#) Will Grier: Mr. Football USA as the nation's top high school player in 2013; 2014 U.S. Army All-American Bowl selection; 4,989 yards with a national-best 77 passing touchdowns, plus 1,251 rushing yards with 13 touchdowns, in his senior year; career totals of 14,565 yards (second all-time in NC to Chris Leak) and a NC state-record 195 touchdown passes; Gatorade North Carolina Player of the Year as a junior and senior; holder of the national record for single-game passing yardage as a junior with a 837-yard, 10-touchdown game....and now never even gets his name mentioned on a team with a scandalously bad quarterbacking problem, buried on the Florida depth chart behind a fellow true freshman and the inexplicable Jeff Driskel, who was once as highly touted a recruit as.....Will Grier.

Coach Muschamp knows 1,000 times more about football than I do, but even I know that when you recruit one year for a ground-and-pound pro offense, then for finesse and trickery the next, then for spread uptempo after that, you are not going to have players who fit your scheme, especially in the upper classes where the players were recruited for a system abandoned a year after their arrival. And of course, the schemes may change again the following year when a new genius is identified to save the day, leaving the team with yet another mismatch between personnel and style.

I also know that if you want to be taken seriously as a university, and if you want to help make the world a place where women can walk around without fear of being assaulted, you don't name an accused rapist as your starting quarterback just because he isn't yet behind bars (although [he apparently does attend a few](#), in spite of [Florida laws](#) that say he's too young to get past the front door). But he must be a really, really good QB, or at least better than Jeff Driskel and Will Grier, because no matter how many laws he breaks and no matter how many police reports include his name, he's starting against us on Saturday. Perhaps our defense can provide the pursuit that the Gainesville police won't expend.

If Muschamp somehow doesn't win his remaining games with this mess of mismatches, and gets canned, which genius will replace him? Everyone's got a top 10 list, and you've got to wonder which coach running a successful operation would want to move it to Gainesville at this point, or take this job over, say Michigan. Hugh Freeze, Dan Mullen, Steve Spurrier, Bob Stoops, Tim Tebow, Mack Brown, Art Briles, Kurt Roper, Charlie Strong, Brent Venables, Bronco Mendenhall, Kirby Smart, Jim Harbaugh, Chad Morris, Butch "UNC Academic Fraud Scandal" Davis, Kyle Shanahan.....all have made various lists. What happened to Jon Gruden, rumored for every opening in the last 25 years? But aside from assistants who think they can take a promotion better than Muschamp has, or Tebow who thinks God is on his side, would any of these guys leave what they've got for what they'd end up with? I hear Charlie Weiss is available. It's a good time not to be Jeremy Foley.

## **DAWG DOOTS**

- ☞ "Pruitt has us locked and loaded back there." ~Dominick Sanders
- ☞ "Why is my reputation taking a hit? For backing a kid who has done nothing wrong? . . . I base my decisions on the facts. If the facts change, we change

whatever goes on. But we believe in everything so far and we have no reason not to.” ~[Jimbo Fisher, for whom a “fact” is a malleable concept](#)

- ☞ In a major investigative exposé, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* has found that “At Georgia's top-tier Division I college football programs — the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, Georgia State University and Georgia Southern University — the admission scores of football players lag significantly behind those of other freshmen.” They are now in the running for the Coveted Dawgmeister Journalistic DUH Award for 2014.
- ☞ In a related story, in the wake of Quintavious Harrow’s armed robbery arrest, a major investigation has determined that guys Mark Richt kicks off his team tend to be bums.
- ☞ “I believe in this university. Nobody knows what's going to happen with the NCAA, but I feel strongly, strongly that we did things the right way.” ~UNC basketball coach Roy Williams
- ☞ Little Woolly told me that he was going to pray for Gurley’s reinstatement, but as soon as he got started, he was sent to the principal’s office.
- ☞ You wouldn’t think it take more than an hour, at tops, to evaluate Gurley’s case. If Florida could run the same power play that the NCAA likes to run on its member institutions to show that the organization is more important than the actual sports, Muschamp’s job would be safe.
- ☞ Sports statistics keep getting more sophisticated and better at measuring what winners do. In baseball, the old stat line of batting average, homers, and RBI has given way to on base percentage, slugging percentage, and other more sophisticated stats with better predictive value. I recently read about a stat for football that offers more than simply sacks: [pressure percentage](#). This stat includes types of pressure that defensive players put on quarterbacks. Historically, the sack has served as the *sine qua non* of defensive play, but is only one (albeit one that produces lost yardage) of many ways to measure performance. A QB hurry can contribute to turnovers, loss of down, batted passes, intentional grounding, and other negative plays. This year’s Dawgs are just murder on QBs when they bring the pressure, and I suspect it’s correlated to the turnover margin we’ve generated.

**THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD**  
**GOOD GUY ARCHIVE**

**C.J. Byrd** came to UGA as one of the stars of his recruiting class: AJC Super Southern 100, Tom Lemming's Top 100 and No. 4 safety in nation, 2004 Gatorade South Carolina Player of the Year, and every All-You-Name-It team that a player can make. He also had a Good Guy rep even then, always accompanied by his whole family to recruiting and winner of his high school’s Sportsmanship, Coaches, and Most Valuable Player awards as a senior. In addition to his UGA football scholarship, he also was awarded a James E. Farish Football Scholarship by UGA. On the field, C.J. was an excellent, if not great, performer: a two-year starter who went undrafted and signed a free agent contract with Tampa Bay that did not produce a roster spot. But he earned his degree in Consumer Economics and returned to get his M.ED. in the demanding Sport Management

program in the Department of Kinesiology. Since then C.J. has put his degrees to work for him. He's a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, "a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to organize and encourage growth among not just the black community, but our community as a whole. Omega preaches the principles of Christian manhood, scholarship attainment, perseverance, and uplift of your community and others that we may come in contact with daily." He's advanced through a series of positions, including a managerial role at UGA's Ramsey Center, a position as assistant to the Director of Football Operations at UGA, a role as Development Office Assistant for UGA, a sales and ticketing position with the Chick-fil-A Bowl in Atlanta, and presently a job as Account Executive in business development with the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. Ultimately, he aspires to work in a university athletics department, and don't be surprised if you find him as Athletic Director down the road. He's got the smarts, personality, organizational skill, financial acumen, and sports experience to run the drill, and finish it too. I'm looking forward to follow this bright young Dawg's career as he makes it big off the field.



## **THE FORECAST**

### **DAWGS VS. FLORIDA**

Congratulations to Coach Muschamp for avoiding a loss on Saturday. It might be his only such weekend for the rest of the season. The Gators are just awful on everything but defense, and as good as they are, they can't stop teams from scoring on the Gator offense and special teams. With the Dawgs suddenly ballhawking every loose ball on the field, and creating a few with heavy hitting and serious ball-stripping skills, it's hard to believe that the dreadful Florida offense won't cough up at least a few to create more scenes like this one of Dominick Sanders' scoop-'n'-score from the heart of the Hog:



The nation's best turnover ratio team against a team that gives it away at will: not good for Muschamp. Dawgs roll, Gators fold: Good Guys, 34-10.

### **NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: AUBURN AT OLE MISS**

A game of considerable national intrigue and interest. Ole Miss got a reality check with a road loss at LSU, and that's often what happens when Halloween approaches and teams no longer feast at home week after week, which is why the Mississippi Burning narrative

needed to be heavily milked by the Lamestream Sports Media while the story remained available. Auburn needed its whole arsenal to outscore SC and Spurrier's complete playbook. The SEC West drama continues as Ole Miss's season returns to earth, and they get back on their trajectory to the Citrus Bowl. War Tigers, 35-34.

### **NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: LOUISVILLE OVER FLORIDA STATE**

Can the combination of Petrino and Grantham continue to function? This is one of those games where I just can't stand either program, and hope that the coaches get in a brawl at midfield and all get ejected before kickoff. In the absence of that, this is the first game in which Louisville's nation-leading defense goes against a team that can really light it up, and I'm not just talking about Brainless Jameis Winston's likelihood of becoming an arsonist on top of his other character flaws. Smart money is on the Seminoles; mine is on the steaming pile of Petrinos. Louisville, 38-35.